

MAR 0 6 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO RECOGNIZE, HONOR, AND MEMORIALIZE THE LEGACY OF MARY KAWENA PŪKU'I IN PERPETUATING THE HAWAIIAN CULTURE.

1 WHEREAS, Mary Kawena Pūku'i, born in 1895 as Mary Abigail
2 Ka-wena-'ula-o-ka-lani-a-Hi'iaka-i-ka-poli-o-Pele-ka-wahine-'ai-
3 honua (The rosy glow in the sky made by Hi'iaka who was raised in
4 the bosom of Pele, the earth consuming woman) Na-lei-lehua-a-
5 Pele (Pele's lehua leis) Wiggin, in rural Ka'u on the island of
6 Hawaii grew up bilingual and bicultural, with a Hawaiian mother,
7 who spoke only Hawaiian, and a Salem, Massachusetts, native
8 father who spoke to her in English, although he spoke fluent
9 Hawaiian; and

10
11 WHEREAS, Mary Kawena Pūku'i's lifelong desire to understand
12 and preserve her Hawaiian culture can be attributed to her
13 grandmother, Po'ai, who had been a dancer in the Queen Emma
14 Court, and with whom young Mary Kawena Pūku'i spent the first six
15 years of her life, as was customary; and

16
17 WHEREAS, by her early teens Mary Kawena Pūku'i was
18 collecting stories, legends, and traditions given to her by
19 family and friends; and

20
21 WHEREAS, through her recognized language and writing
22 skills, Mary Kawena Pūku'i found herself at the Bishop Museum,
23 where she would spend some fifty years working closely with its
24 staff, including anthropologists, ethnologists, and biologists,
25 and co-wrote the Hawaiian-English Dictionary to assist them; and

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27 WHEREAS, Mary Kawena Pūku'i's published work spanned over
28 fifty years and significantly contributed to the fields of
29 Hawaiian language and Hawaiian studies, which might have
30 remained lost or been translated much later; and



1 WHEREAS, at the beginning of the twentieth century,
2 Hawaiian culture was largely repressed in favor of Western
3 education; however, its resurgence in the "Hawaiian Renaissance"
4 movement of the 1960s to 1970s resulted in Hawaiian culture
5 being fully integrated into today's Hawaii; and
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7 WHEREAS, had it not been for Mary Kawena Pūku'i's dedication
8 and diligence in preserving the knowledge and culture of the
9 Hawaiian people, the resurgence of the Hawaiian culture would
10 have failed or faltered to the loss and misfortune of the whole
11 State of Hawaii; and
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13 WHEREAS, the legacy of Mary Kawena Pukui in perpetuating
14 the Hawaiian culture must be recognized, honored, and
15 memorialized; now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
18 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the State
19 Foundation on Culture and the Arts is requested to develop a
20 plan to recognize, honor, and memorialize the legacy of Mary
21 Kawena Pūku'i in perpetuating the Hawaiian culture by:
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- 23 (1) Using funds in the Works of Art Special Fund for the
24 development and implementation of a plan to recognize,
25 honor, and memorialize Mary Kawena Pūku'i;
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- 27 (2) Determining a memorial befitting Mary Kawena Pūku'i's
28 legacy, such as a monument or statue in her likeness
29 in a setting that reflects her legacy of perpetuating
30 the Hawaiian culture and history that will survive for
31 generations to come;
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- 33 (3) Determining an appropriate site for the memorial where
34 residents and visitors can admire, understand, and
35 appreciate Mary Kawena Pūku'i's contribution in
36 perpetuating Hawaiian culture and history; and
37
- 38 (4) Identifying any legal, financial, or cultural
39 impediments to recognize, honor, and memorialize Mary



1 Kawena Pūku'i and proposals to address those
 2 impediments, including proposed legislation; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director of the
 5 State Foundation on Culture and the Arts may create a working
 6 group to support and assist in the development and
 7 implementation of the plan as requested by this measure; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director of the
 10 State Foundation on Culture and the Arts is requested to submit
 11 a report on its findings and recommendations, including any
 12 proposed legislation, regarding the development and
 13 implementation of a plan as requested by this measure to the
 14 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 15 the Regular Session of 2021; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 18 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 19 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Chairperson of the
 20 Hawaiian Homes Commission, Executive Director of the State
 21 Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and President of The Mary
 22 Kawena Pūku'i Cultural Preservation Society.
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OFFERED BY: 

 

 

  



